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United States Patent [19][11] **Patent Number:** **5,392,387****Fitzpatrick et al.**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Feb. 21, 1995**[54] **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ENHANCED DATA ACCESS EFFICIENCY IN AN ELECTRONIC BOOK***Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—David A. Mims; Andrew J. Dillon[75] **Inventors:** **Gregory P. Fitzpatrick**, Fort Worth; **Thomas R. Haynes**, Euless, both of Tex.[57] **ABSTRACT**[73] **Assignee:** **International Business Machines Corporation**, Armonk, N.Y.[21] **Appl. No.:** **992,374**[22] **Filed:** **Dec. 17, 1992**[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **G06F 15/62**[52] **U.S. Cl.** **395/156; 395/159**[58] **Field of Search** 395/144, 145, 146, 147, 395/148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161

A method and system for enhanced data access efficiency in an electronic book implemented within a data processing system having a display, at least one displayable index screen which includes multiple selectable topics and multiple numbered data pages. A user is permitted to designate particular selectable topics within the index screen and page tabs are then displayed for each numbered data page which includes a reference to a designated selectable topic. An iconic representation of the index screen is displayed in the absence of a display of the index screen. The iconic representation of the index screen includes a selectable control element. Each time the selectable control element is selected by a user, a list of each designated selectable topic is provided. A listing of page tabs for each numbered data page associated with a listed selectable topic is then displayed each time a listed selectable topic is graphically selected by a user. Particular data pages may then be selected directly, by graphically designating page tabs, without requiring the display of an index screen.

[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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